Ecological and Environmental Devastation

181. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken so far against ecological and environmental devastation leading to uprooting of human settlements, especially of the tribal and the poor, due to trajectories of modern progress such as dams, satellites, factories, in many parts of the country; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up a Central Committee to look into all such matters and report within an early specified time, so as to avoid further loss to human lives, as well as loss to the country's wealth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The Government of India has made environment impact assessment statutory for thirty selected activities which also include river-valley projects and industries. The list of such developmental activities is enclosed as statement (*See* below). While appraising these projects, the impact on human settlements and ecology is also kept in view. Wherever necessary mitigation measures are stipulated as part of environmental clearance. Besides this, the Ministry has also declared certain areas such as, Doon Valley, Dahanu Taluka in Maharashtra as ecologically sensitive. Developmental activities in these areas are regulated taking into account the ecological sensitivity of these areas. Conservation programmes in regard to various ecologically sensitive areas such as mangroves, wetlands have also been taken up.

(b) Proposals for environmental clearance are considered by Expert Committees constituted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests as per the provisions of the EIA Notification. Besides others, the Committee includes experts on social sciences/rehabilitation, environmental health and representatives of NGOs/persons concerned with environmental issues. While approving the rehabilitation plan, it is ensured that in addition to compensation package welfare measures

such as provision of drinking water, sanitation, education and health are also adequately provided for. Since environmental, ecological and rehabilitation issues are examined/considered by the Expert Committees, there is no proposal to set up a separate Central Committee.

Statement

List of Projects Requiring Environmental Clearance from the Central Government

1. Nuclear Power and related projects such as Heavy Water Plants, nuclear fuel complex, Rare Earths.
2. River Valley projects including hydel power, major Irrigation and their combination including flood control.
3. Ports, Harbours, Airports (except minor ports and harbours).
4. Petroleum Refineries including crude and product pipelines.
5. Chemical Fertilizers (Nitrogenous and Phosphatic other than single superphosphate).
6. Pesticides (Technical).
7. Petrochemical complexes (Both olefinic and Aromatic) and Petro-chemical intermediates such as DMT, Caprolactam, LAB etc. and production of basic plastic such as LLDPE, HDPE, PP, PVC
8. Bulk drugs and pharmaceuticals
9. Exploration for oil and gas and their production, transportation and storage.
10. Synthetic Rubber.
11. Asbestos and Asbestos products.
12. Hydrocyanic acid and its derivatives.
13. (a) Primary metallurgical industries (such as production of Iron and Steel, Aluminium, Copper, Zinc, Lead and Ferro Alloys).

    (b) Electric arc furnaces (Mini Steel Plants).

14. Chlor alkali industry.

15. Integrated paint complex including manufacture of resins and basic raw materials required in the manufacture of paints.

16. Viscose Staple fibre and filament yarn.

17. Storage batteries integrated with manufacture of oxides of lead and lead antimony alloys.

18. All tourism projects between 200m—500 metres of High Water Line and at locations with an elevation of more than 1000 metres with investment of more than Rs. 5 crores.

19. Thermal Power Plants.

20. Mining projects (major minerals) with leases more than 5 hectares.

21. Highway Projects except projects relating to improvement work including widening and strengthening of roads with marginal land acquisition along the existing alignments provided it does not pass through ecologically sensitive areas such as National Parks, Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, Reserve Forests.

22. Tarred roads in the Himalayas and/or Forest areas.

23. Distilleries.

24. Raw Skins and Hides.

25. Pulp, paper and newsprint.

26. Dyes.

27. Cement.

28. Foundries (individual).

29. Electroplating.

30. Meta amino phenol.